

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 354

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend United States Congressman, John Tanner for meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee and his election as President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves in public service and of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is United States Congressman John Tanner, who serves the state of Tennessee's Eighth Congressional District of West and Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his most distinguished work as the United States Congressman from Tennessee's Eighth Congressional District, John Tanner has recently been named President of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Parliamentary Assembly, the legislative branch of the NATO Alliance, which is comprised of legislators from all twenty-six member nations; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the North Atlantic Treaty, originally signed April 4, 1949, the honorable John Tanner will be devoting his time and energy to safeguarding the freedom and security of this great nation and her allies; and

WHEREAS, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly has been in existence since 1955; its mission is to build support within the national legislatures of each member, and to provide recommendations to the Secretary General of NATO and the North Atlantic Council; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Tanner will be in a unique and prominent position, guiding the legislative branch of NATO as its new president and directing this practical forum of

expression and collective effort among all twenty-six NATO members in support of their common values of democracy, individual liberty, and rule of law; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Tanner has led an exemplary and heroic life dedicated to the service of this great state and nation; serving as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy from 1968-1972; after being honorably discharged, he entered the Tennessee Army National Guard in 1972 and retired in 2000 at the rank of Colonel; and

WHEREAS, he is also one of the few members of the United States Congress to have served on the Board of Visitors for the United States Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, and the United States Military Academy; and

WHEREAS, he honorably represented House District 77 in the Tennessee General Assembly from 1976 until 1988; and

WHEREAS, he is serving his tenth term in the United States House of Representatives, where his ability and leadership skills were employed as a member of the U.S. House Armed Services Committee and the U.S. House Committee on Science, until his appointment to the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee and the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Representative Tanner was appointed Chief Deputy Whip for the House Democratic Caucus for the 109<sup>th</sup> and 110<sup>th</sup> United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Tanner epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Tanner's proficiency and expertise will make all Tennesseans proud, as he skillfully leads the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in its valuable mission of informed debate and consensus building among its members, as all member nations continue in their cooperation to build a better world for future generations; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud United States Congressman John Tanner, for his dedication to the citizens of the state of Tennessee and the United States of America; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend U.S. Congressman

John Tanner on his election as President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and for his ongoing meritorious service to this nation and the great state of Tennessee, extending to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.